

NASA GRC RTAPS Industry Day
June 26, 2009
Questions and Answers

General Questions

Q: What is expected duration of RTAPS?

A: 5 years for award

Q: It states a limit of 10 pages for the Sample Task. Is that included in the total?

A: Yes. See page limit table in Section L-15.

Q: How many proposals per organization? Can there be multiple proposals?

A: However you want to structure, the strategy is your choice.

Q: Is there potential for classified work under RTAPS?

A: No, no classified volume is required.

Q: If there is a delay in issuance of the final RFP will the two weeks early submission of past performance still be required?

A: Yes.

Q: The RTAPS SOW is so broad that it may be easy to exceed maximums. Are there targeted acquisitions planned for RTAPS?

A: At this point we cannot say with certainty what the first tasks from RTAPS would cover. The RTAPS SOW is intended to be broad in order to anticipate all possible technology areas of interest that could may be funded by the NASA Projects over the next five years.

Q: Please address potential overlap/intersection with the GRC NRAs for local onsite support.

A: There is no relationship between the GRC NRA's and RTAPS. Each has its own purpose.

Q: Are you looking for industry/expertise at their own facilities or on NASA site?

A: Your proposal must reflect what fits your company best.

Q: Will RTAPS ever be re-competed in the future?

A: No. Only individual tasks will be competed among the awarded prime contractors in each Technology Area.

Q: Is only one Management Volume needed, or one per Technology Area?

A: Only one Business Management volume (Volume IV) is needed with your proposal which addresses the model contract, Representation and Certifications, Exceptions to terms and conditions, SF 33 and Fill ins required for Section B-I, Section J, Section K
Under Mission Suitability, Subfactor 2 entitled 'Management plan and approach', your management plan and approach must be addressed in your proposal as part of the page count for the Technology area(s) proposed.

Q: Can we get awarded under RTAPS without funding?

A: All contracts will be awarded with the \$30,000 minimum quantity as stated in Clause B.2 entitled

“ INDEFINITE DELIVERY/INDEFINITE QUANTITY “. When the Contractor receives their first task order, this \$30,000 will be re-allocated to their first task order and the Government will have met their minimum quantity under the contract.

If no task orders are issued to the Contractor during the entire five year contract period of performance, the Government (NASA Glenn) is contractually obligated to pay the Contractor the \$30,000 upon completion of the five year contract period of performance even though no task order was issued.

Q: Can the anticipated contract values per Technology Area be changed?

A: No

Proposal Costing Questions

Q: Do we need to provide a ROM (Rough Order of Magnitude) cost for the entire statement of work?

A: No. Costing is required only for specific sample tasks (See L-26).

Q: RFP says contracting will allow for fixed, cost share, or reimbursable...what vehicle do you prefer?

A: There is no preference; the actual task will dictate the contract type. Note: No award fee contracts are included

Q: How do we address sample tasks under Recovery Act funding?

A: Do not assume Recovery Act funding when you address the sample tasks in your proposal. Sample tasks are only to be proposed as cost plus fixed fee.

Q: Is there a \$2M funding limit for a subcontract?

A: No. For any major subcontract having a potential estimated total value in excess of \$2M per individual sample task order, your Cost volume must contain a Basis of Estimate (BOE) for that subcontract.

Q: How are sample tasks to be proposed (cost-share, cost plus fixed fee, ...)?

A: Sample tasks are only to be proposed as cost plus fixed fee.

Q: Will the cost of using Government facilities count towards the maximum dollars per contract award in the Technology Area?

A: No.

Q: Do we need to get cost proposals from suppliers?

A: No. Additional proposals are required in accordance with Provision L.26, paragraph 2 entitled "General Instructions", paragraph (c).

Q: How can we include NASA personnel and/or facilities as part of the sample task order?

A: Estimates for the cost of Government Task Agreements (GTA) or Space Act Agreements should be received from the appropriate NASA facility. Government provided property or personnel will be offered for the sample task orders at no cost.

Subcontracting / Teaming Questions

Q: In small business slide showing small business target...is that a subset?

A: No, they do not add up in the slide.

Q: What is best way to handle CDs from subcontractors, as they consider their rates to be proprietary?

A: Subcontractors can choose to submit thru a sealed envelope (so the prime does not have access)

Q: Small business attendees could benefit from a list of today's attendees.

A: We will post the list of attendees on the RTAPS website. See the interested parties list already on the website.

Q: Can a prime add another subcontractor later on?

A: Yes, can additional subcontractors can be added later.

Q: How can a small business participate in this RFP?

A: The RTAPS has a website where all interested parties are listed. In addition, a listing of all attendees with contact information will be posted on the RTAPS website.

Q: Could a single candidate be considered both prime and sub?

A: Yes, a candidate can propose as a prime and as a subcontractor to another prime in the same Technology Area or in different Technology Areas.

Q: We can only propose in 1 or 2 areas. If we didn't propose anything, but someone asks us to contribute later, can we?

A: Yes, additional subcontractors can be added later.

Q: What about suppliers? We'll probably have multiple materials suppliers. Can we add suppliers later?

A: Yes, additional suppliers can be added later.

Q: What about subcontractor past performance? What is needed?

A: See Section L.27. The Offeror shall submit the information for the proposed prime Contractor and any major subcontractor/team member(s) (a major subcontractor/team member is defined as those subcontractor/team member(s) deemed "critical" as defined by the Offeror). The RFP will be revised to reflect this.

Q: Is there a limitation on subcontractors in the proposal? Do we need an exhaustive list of our subcontractors?

A: There is no limitation on the amount of subcontractors in a proposal. It is a competitive decision by the company on whom to propose and how many subcontracts to propose.

Q: What input from potential subcontractors is required and not required if we believe one of the subcontractors is crucial to include?

A: You will need to show how this subcontractor supports your proposal in addressing the RTAPS SOW and/or sample tasks. Also, you will need to provide a letter of intent from the subcontractor.

Q: Is past performance needed for a teaming arrangement and for a subcontractor arrangement?

A: If the proposal is a teaming arrangement then past performance is required for all team members as determined "critical" as defined by the Offeror. If a subcontractor arrangement, then past performance is needed for subcontractors as determined "critical" as defined by the Offeror.

Q: If we are a subcontractor in a proposal, the prime is not bound to use only us in an actual task?

A: Correct

Q: If a company teams with another company, or is a subcontractor or prime with another company, does that preclude being awarded the contract?

A: There are no restrictions on the teaming / subcontracting arrangements. An entity can be a prime and subcontractor to another company in the same Technology Area. The maximum value is the only limit. If you propose in a team arrangement, you are a legal entity and award is to the team. If you propose as a prime/subcontractor, that relationship is not binding.

Technology Area Questions

Q: Currently a Commission led by Mr. Augustine is conducting an evaluation of the NASA exploration program. RTAPS reflects the Agency's current direction. Is there a method to modify the scope if things change as a result of this commission?

A: The scope of RTAPS was developed to cover advanced propulsion research and should be broad enough to cover any possible changes in program direction.

Q: How many awards are expected per Technology Area?

A: We would like to have multiple awards per Technology Area.

Q: Can a task be competed across Technology Areas?

A: There is some overlap between Technology Areas. If a particular task is covered in more than one Technology Area, NASA reserves the right to compete the task in more than one Technology Area.

Q: How can we get more information on the NASA Projects that RTAPS covers?

A: Information on the various NASA programs can be seen on the main NASA website (hq.nasa.gov)

Q: Does RTAPS cover large and small air breathing engine technologies?

A: Yes. Technology Area 1 covers all air breathing engines – rotorcraft, large transports, supersonic, etc. Integration of these engines are covered in Technology Areas 2 and 3.

Q: Is software validation included in the Space Propulsions Technology Area?

A: Validation of analysis tools is within the scope of Technology Area 4.

Q: Health management work was listed in only one technical area, was that intentional?

A: Health management work is listed in two Technology Areas: TA1: Engine health management systems (2.1.10 in SOW), and TA3: Rotorcraft health management technologies (2.3.5 in SOW). These are the only areas health management technology work is anticipated.

Q: How do air breathing engines fit into section four?

A: Technology Area 4 includes Rocket Based Combined Cycle engines that are being pursued under the ARMD Hypersonics Project.

RTAPS Task Order Process and Funding Questions

Q: Please elaborate on the chart showing possibility of RTAPS being used to fund ARMD NRA work?

A: For convenience, if an Aeronautics Research Mission Directorate (ARMD) NRA competition has scope of work that matches RTAPS, and the company winning the NRA competition is a prime in the RTAPS contract in that Technology Area, the task can be awarded through RTAPS without additional competition.

Q: Explain more about the funding of NRAs.

A: If NRA work is funded through RTAPS it will count towards the RTAPS maximum order. It is not the company's choice as to whether something will be within RTAPS or not. If an NRA is greater in value than an RTAPS award, it would not be pursued.

Q: Will there be any Recovery Act Funding in RTAPS.

A: It is possible that RTAPS could have Recovery Act funding. See clause 52.204-11 entitled "American Recovery and Reinvestment Act – Reporting Requirements (March 2009)"

Q: Understanding the effort required in responding to real tasks would be helpful for proposers to "sell" participation to their management.

A: The effort required would depend on the dollar value and complexity of the task, but will be more streamlined than full proposal.

Q: Describe competition for a task order.

A: A task is identified in a Technology Area by NASA and an RFP is sent to each company awarded a contract under RTAPS in that particular Technology Area. It is then up to the company to submit a proposal to the task.

Q: How much effort will be required in competing the tasks? What is the process? It is streamlined?

A: The effort required would depend on the dollar value and complexity of the task. Smaller tasks will be faster to process.

Q: How will actual work be solicited?

A: Tasks in a Technology Area will be competed among the companies awarded a contract under RTAPS in that Technology Area. An RFP is automatically sent to these companies.
